

/197 cont. /

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Herrenschmidt, p. 106, for the Reef Islands, and by Lennier, Cat., p. VII, for Vanikoro: -- Bone needles (Ethn., I, pp. 118 f. and Fig. 47, No. 3) are also mentioned by Jennings, JAI, XXVIII, p. 165, and therefore may be regarded as certain for Nitendi.]

283

String is made in quantities (3) [some of it with two

3. [Ethn., I, p. 117.]

different kinds of strands (4)]. For the lashings on boats, cords

4. [As in the ankle ornament shown in Fig. 10.]

made of coconut fiber are generally used. In addition cords of different strengths for fishing lines and nets are found. They are twisted out of a soft, flax-like /Fig. 44 appears here/ fiber and are usually rubbed with a resin or wax through which they acquire some stiffening and a dark reddish color (5).

5. [Such a cord is shown in Ethn., I, p. 119, Fig. 47, No. 1. It therefore is not used for building houses or boats. Dr. Speiser is unfamiliar with the ball of plaited coconut-fiber cord shown in ibid., Fig. 47, No. 2, but a similar ball of a different kind of cord is shown in Lennier, Pl. IV, for Vanikoro.]

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[462]

For net making, practiced exclusively by men, /Fig.

45 appears here/ a longish rectangular little board or piece of tortoise shell is used to measure the size of the mesh, and a

[804]

[412]

436 plies the red color of the money. The
 463 second makes individual platelets of
 pigeon feathers and decorates each with
 a band of the red down. The third as-
 sembles the platelets by binding them
 on two cords to form a belt.

223 The bird on which the entire system
 [825] depends is a small scarlet-colored honey
 eater (*Myzomela cardinalis*) of the rain
 forest. The bird snarer makes portable
 perches covered with the sticky latex
 of a forest tree and fastens at the top of
 each either a live decoy of the species
 or a flower that the honey eater likes.
 Hanging a number of these perches in
 adjacent trees, he shields himself behind
 a blind of betel palm leaves and attracts
 birds into the area by chirping with a
 whistle made from a tree bud. Investi-
 gating the flower or the decoy, the
 honey eaters approach the sticky perch
 and are caught by their wings or feet.
 The bird snarer plucks the red down
 from the birds' breasts, heads and backs,
 he does not deliberately kill them in the
 process, but they usually die as a result.
 In the half-shell of a coconut he packs
 tightly the down of 10 birds, and this is
 the basic unit in which he deals.

• [804] The platelet maker usually secures his

[287]

[p97(c)]

287 own pigeon feathers, shooting the gray
[223] Pacific pigeon (*Ducula pacifica*) with
[825] bow and arrow. With a mucilage made
[381] from the sap of the paper mulberry
[824] (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), he glues the
[804] feathers together into the flexible plate-
let. The flat surface of a wooden platen,
usually about 2½ by 1½ inches, serves as a
gauge for fashioning each platelet in the
proper size. Using the same glue, the
craftsman tacks a half-inch band of red
down from the honey eaters along one
edge of the gray platelet. A piece of cur-
[436] rency requires about 1,500 platelets,
overlapped like shingles to expose only
the band of red feathers. Since one 10-
bird packet of down is enough for 50
platelets, about 300 honey eaters are
required for a standard piece of new
currency.

The platelets are passed on to the
currency binder, who collects and pre-
pares the other necessary materials:
[824] long-staple fibers from the bark of a rain-
[237] forest tree (*Gnetum gnemon*), colored
seeds for decoration and pieces of turtle
shell. He stretches two three-ply fiber
cords from a large stump to a springy
sapling set in the ground about five feet
away, and he spaces the cords about

[797 (D)]